

# PERRY'S · MUSICAL · MAGAZIZE



50th YEAR

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NUMBER 2

#### Perry's Musical Magazine.

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#### LIVES OF GREAT PIANISTS.

#### Beethoven, Louis Van.

The greatest composer of the present century, was born in Bonn, on the Rhine, December 17, 1770. His father was tenor singer in the elector's chapel, a man of irregular habits, besides being a severe taskmaster to the boy, whose early musical education he superintended in person-a stubborn, impetuous, impatient boy, who hated to sit still, and had absolutely to be driven to the piano, and yet who loved music dearly in his own way. These were circumstances to imbitter the sweets of home, and to provoke to surly self-reliance a genius who could not brook artificial methods, and could feel its own appointed way better than rules and teachers could show it. Yet he loved to talk of the good old grandfather, who died when he was but three years old, and he always cherished a warm affection for his mother. Besides music, the rest of his education was common enough—the rudiments of a public school, and "a little Latin." But the ideal side of his nature found a more genial home in the society of the refined and hospitable family of Von Breuand a younger daughter, who became Beewas always welcome and at home; here he in his playing. grew familiar with intellectual society, and with the works of the German poets.

At the age of 15, he was appointed organist in the chapel of the Elector of Cologne, Max Franz, brother of the Emperor Joseph II. This post was obtained for him by Count Waldstein, an amateur of taste, who was the first to recognize his genius, and his friend and patron through life. An anecdote of his skill and playfulness at this time is related:

"On the last three days of the passion week the Lamentations of the Prophet Jeremiah were always chanted; these consisted of passages of from four to six lines, and they were sung in no particular time. In the middle of each sentence ,agreeably to the birth and constitution an awkward stranger away, their furrows smoothed by the lot of old choral style, a rest was made upon one in the world of commonplace, and ill con-better days," &c.

days) had to fill up with a voluntary flour- giving lessons. He never would have subish. Beethoven told Heller, a singer at the mitted to it, to help himself; only the neceschapel, who was boasting of his professional sities of his family and the thought of his cleverness, that he would engage, that very dear mother could induce him to it. Madday, to put him out, at such a place, with- ame von Bruening used to compel him out his being aware of it, so that he should against his will to go over to the opposite not be able to proceed. He accepted the house, and continue his lessons in the famwager; and Beethoven, when he came to a ily of the Austrian ambassador. As he knew passage that suited his purpose, led the himself observed, he would sulk along, "ut singer, by an adroit modulation, out of the iniquae mentis asellus," but even on the prevailing mode, into one having no affin- doorstep would often turn back, and promise ity with it; still, however, adhering to the to give two hours the next day, for it was tonic of the former key; so that the singer, impossible to do it now. After one of these unable to find his way in this strange re- occurrences, or any like freak of wayward gion, was brought to a dead stand. Exas- genius, Mme. von Breuning was accustomed perated by the laughter of those around him, to wink and say, "Our Beethoven has had Heller complained to the elector, who (to another 'raptus' "-a phrase which he was use Beethoven's expression) "gave him a fond of using, as we shall see. most clever reprimand, and bade him not play any more such clever tricks."

It was while in this situation, a few years after, that he had an opportunity of showing a cantata of his own composition to Haydn, who, on his way home from England, was invited to a breakfast by the electoral band. The result, as we may suppose, was encouraging to the young artist. He continued to busy himself with the composition of small sonatas, songs and especially variations for the piano. A feat of his in this kind displayed his extraordinary power before Sterkel, the most accomplished pianist whom Beethoven had ever heard. The doubt expressed by this finished performer, whether the composer of these variations could play them fluently himself, spurred on Beethoven, not only to play by heart such as were printed, but to follow them up with a number of others extemporized on the spot; and at the same time he imitated the light and pleasing touch of Sterkel, whom he had never heard till then, whereas his own usual way of playing the piano was hard and ning, his warmest friend through life. The heavy, owing, as Beethoven declared, not to family consisted of the mother, three sons, his want of feeling, but to his practicing a great deal upon the organ, of which he was thoven's pupil. These were his good angels, very fond. But it was natural, that the imwho could appreciate his mind, and forgive petuous, restless young artist should incline in anger, and we were both of us deceived. his sins against conventionality. Here he more to excess of strength than of delicacy

by the favor of the elector, and through the is thus I wanted to stand before you. Now instrumentality of his old patron, he was let us draw a veil over the whole affair, sent to Vienna, to enjoy the instruction of taking a warning by it, that, should a differ-Haydn. He was now twenty-two; and he ence arise between friends, they should not looked back upon this period as the happiest have recourse to a mediator, but explain part of his life. Very little is told of it. face to face. You receive herewith a dedi-Evidently he was not a youth to be easily cation from me to you, and I only wish the known. He lived in his art, too absorbed in work were greater and more worthy of you. it to be much given to dazzling exploits be- \* \* \* Let it be a revival of the many blessed fore the crowd. The deafness which with hours which I spent at your house; perhaps drew him from the crowd at a later period it may tend to recall me to your mind until was already predicted and prepared in the I return, which, however, will not be so rapt and inward tone of his whole mind. soon. How we will rejoice then, my dear He was indeed morally "deaf" from the first friend to what most regarded the loudest call; by creature, whose days of trouble have passed note, which rest the player on the plane formed to its details and its regularities.

(for the organ was not used on those three He had then and always a great dislike to

It is to be regretted that more is not preserved of his sayings and doings in the house of Von Breuning, for there, it seems, he was in his element. How intimate his relations was to these good friends, and how nobly he could repent of the violent impulses which were always involving him in misunderstandings with his friends, is shown by a letter which he wrote from Vienna to the daughter, his pupil, in 1793.

"Charming Elonora. My Dearest Friend: A year has elapsed since my stay in the capital, and this is the first letter you receive from me; yet rest assured you have ever lived in my recollection. I have often conversed with you and yours, although not with that peace of mind which I could have desired, for the late wretched altercation was hovering before me, showing me my own despicable conduct. But so it was; and what would I not give, could I obliterate from the page of my life this past action, so degrading to my character, and so unlike my usual proceedings. It is true, there were many circumstances widening the breach between us, and I presume that in those whisperings, conveying to us our mutual expressions, lay the chief source of the growing evil. We both imagined that we spoke from conviction, and yet it was but Your good and noble mind has, I know, long forgiven me; but they say that self accusa-His life in Bonn terminated in 1792, when, tion is the surest sign of contrition, and it You will find me a more cheerful

(To Be Continued.)

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Moonlight and Music. 2-2

### BOB'S WALTZ

Mrs. A. SHARPLEY



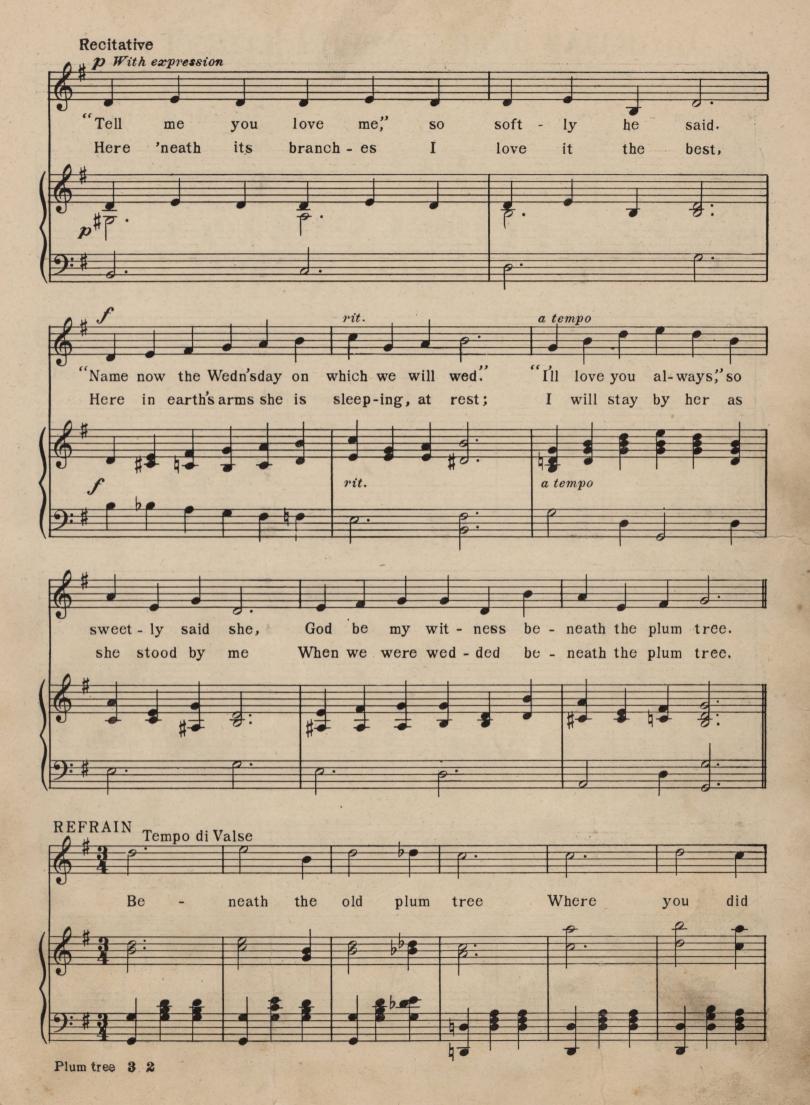


Bob's Waltz. 2-2

## BENEATH THE OLD PLUM TREE



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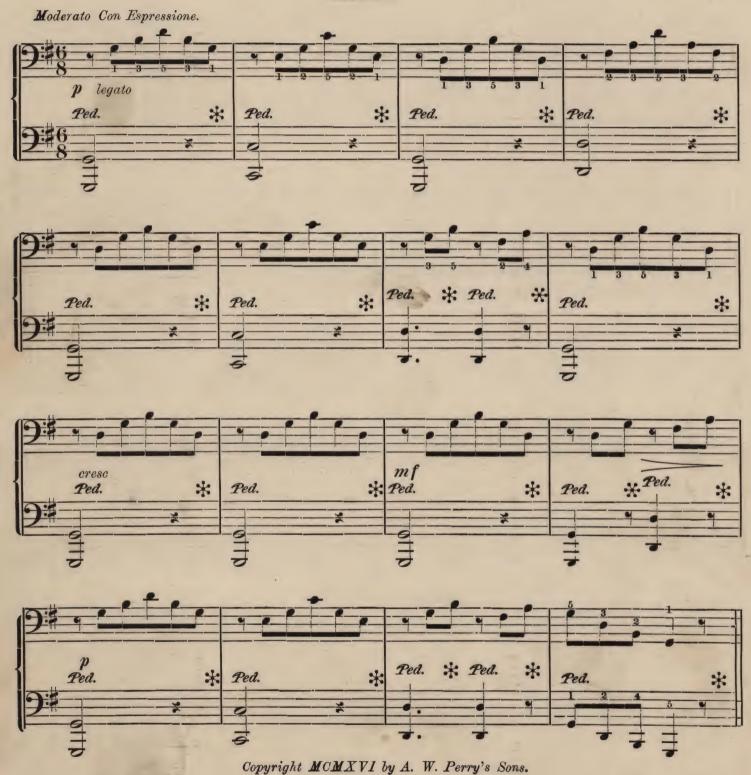


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FOUR HANDS.

M. W. BUTLER.

SECONDO.



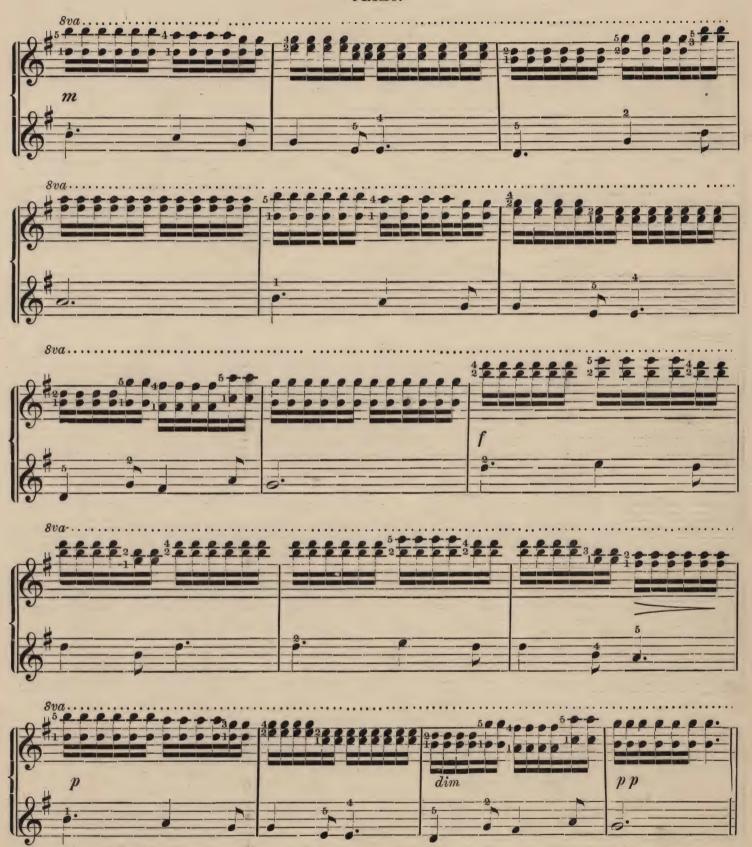
## Nearer, My God, to Thee.

FOUR MANDS.

PRIMO.







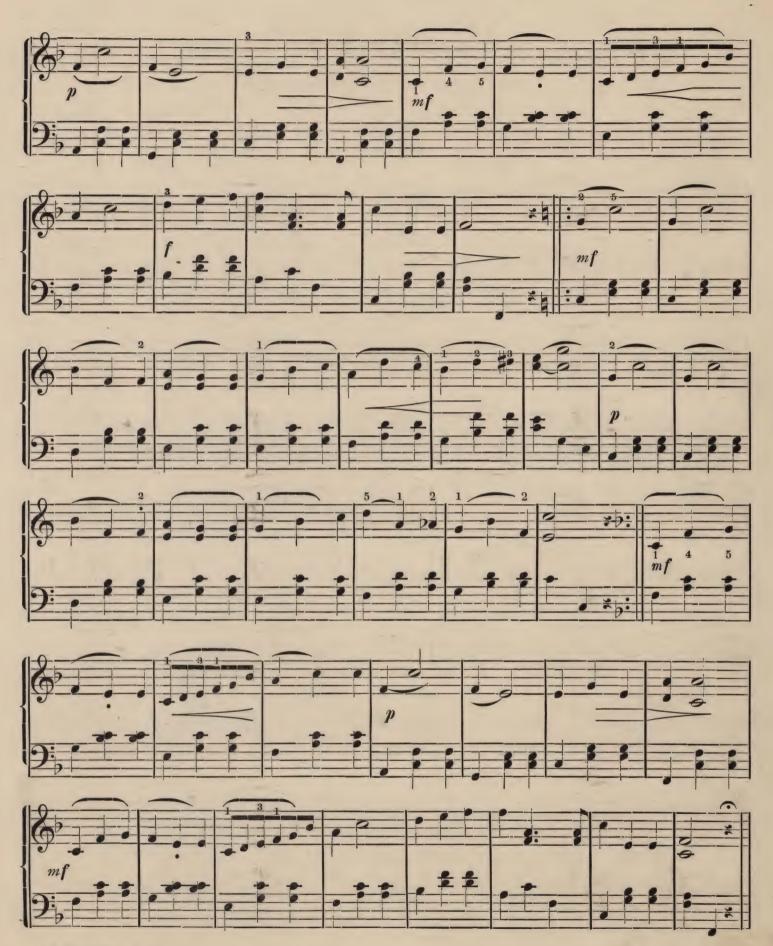
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## Celeste Waltz.

MAUDE DRAKE.



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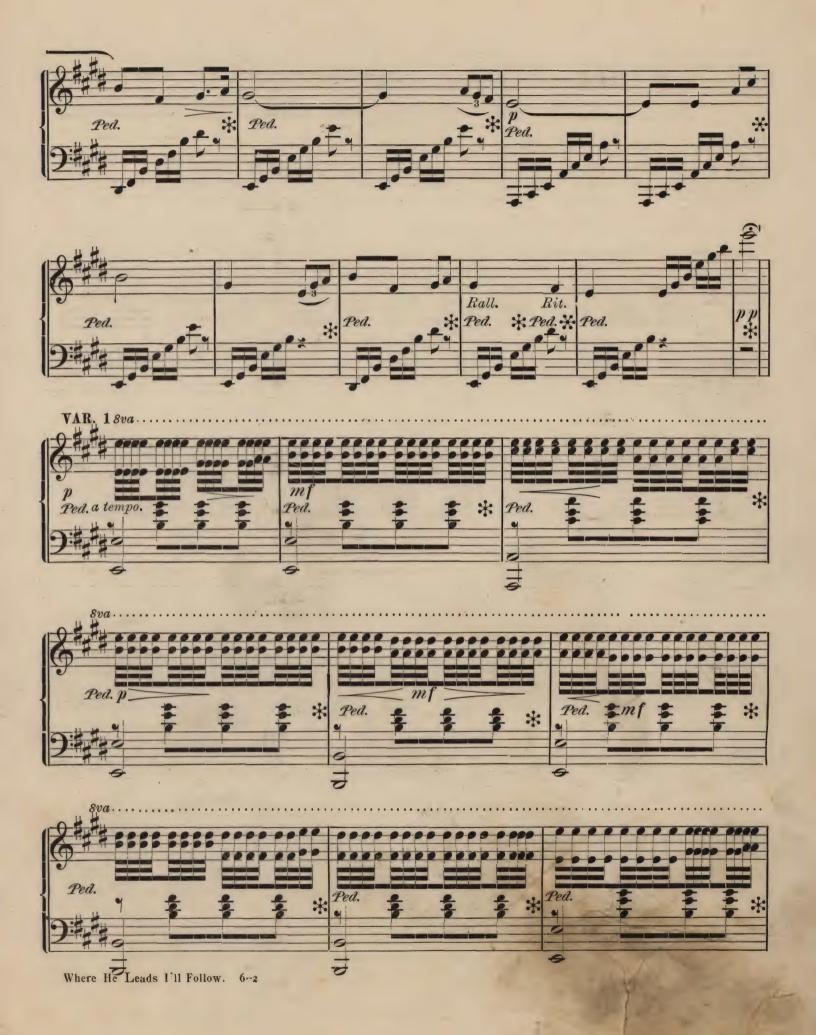
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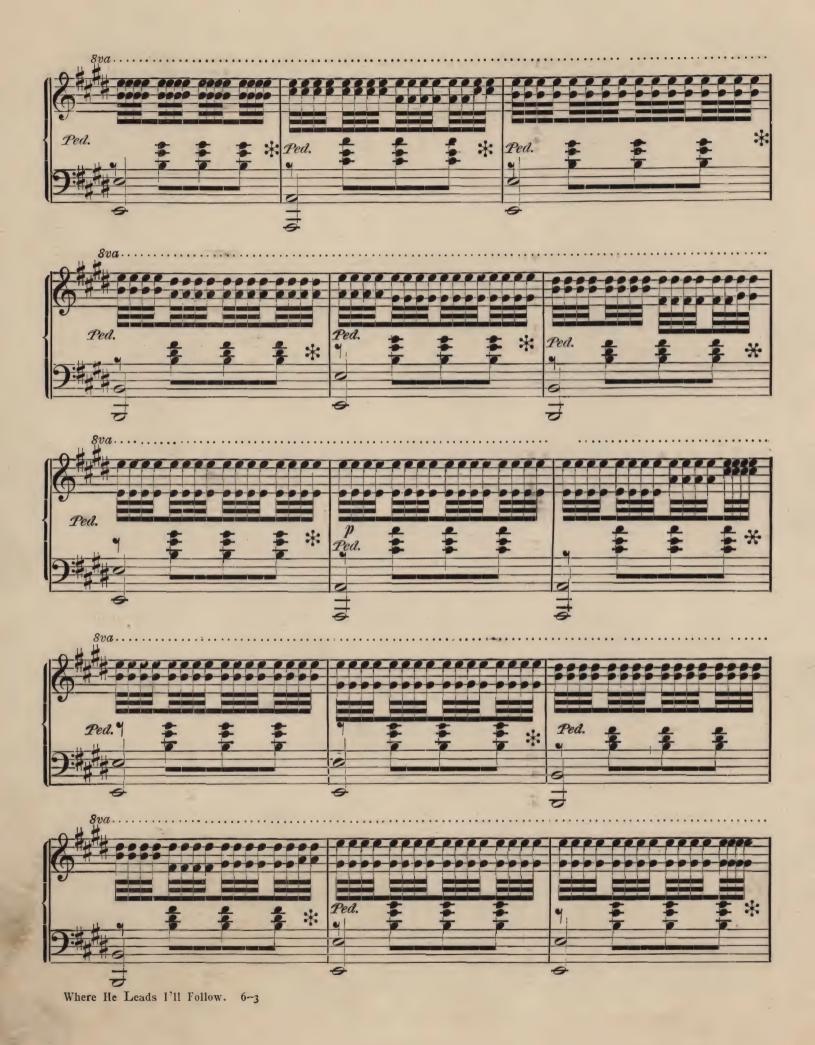
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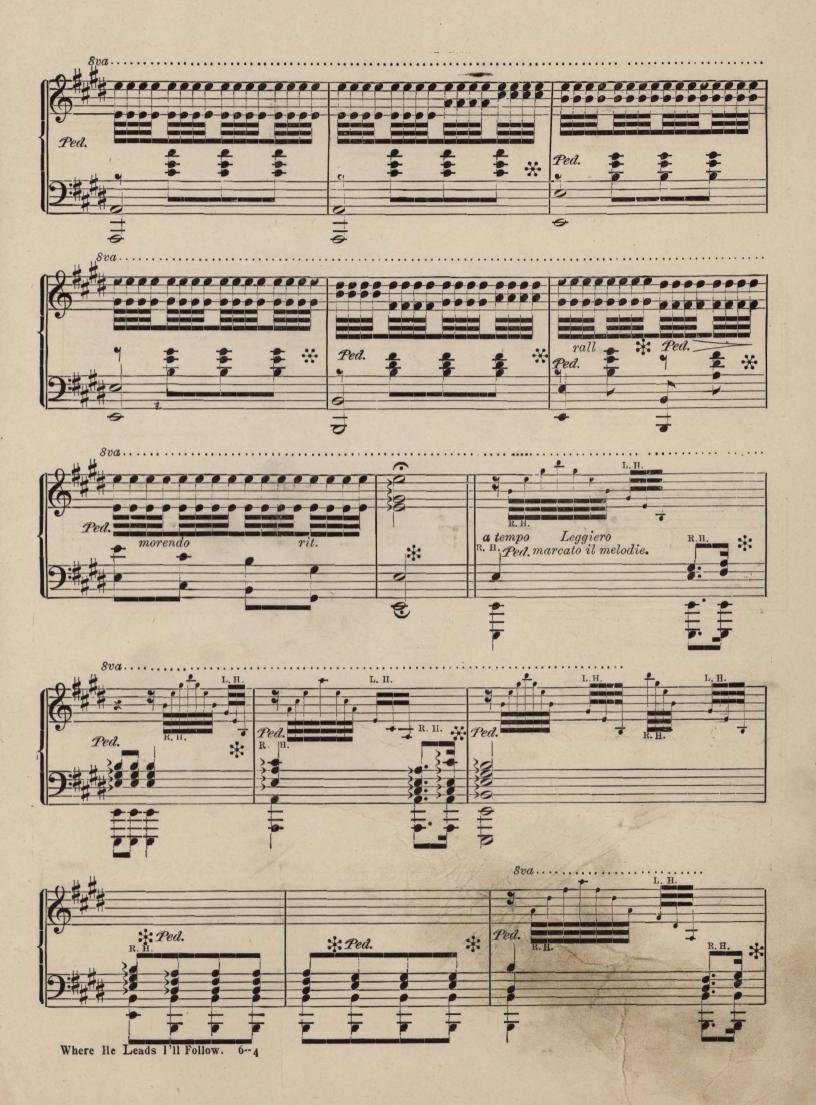
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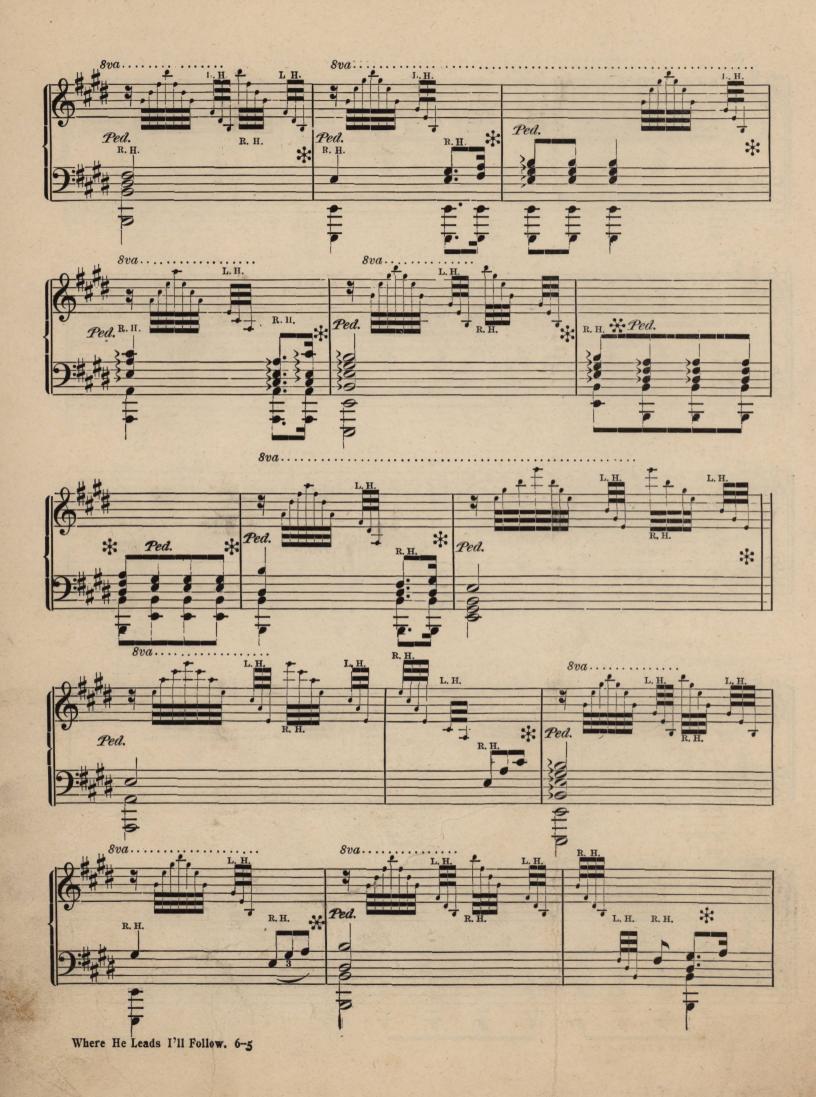


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